

HARVARD RADIO NETWORK

"THE LISTENING HABIT FOR
AMERICA'S FIRST UNIVERSITY"

16 DUNSTER STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Eliot 3-8177

Cabot Hall
Radcliffe College
Cambridge, Mass.
October 23, 1947

Dear Marjorie:

In the confusion surrounding the first weeks of college your letter was, quite unfortunately, forgotten. I, for one, apologize profusely.

As Program Director of WRAD I've taken it upon myself to write you what will probably be an extremely discouraging letter. To be frank, as you may or may not know, Radio Radcliffe is now on the point of going "broke". We have fifty dollars in the treasury; we owe our members at least sixty. May I warn you not to think about starting a station unless you are ready and willing to lay out your own money. Perhaps you will be able to get your college to subsidize you, if not you will have one heck of a problem on your hands. We are attempting to get advertising thru IBS -- they are, if you haven't heard, dickering with Schick Electric Razors. Hardly the kind of commercial to send to a women's school. Or you might like Dill's Pipe Tobacco. In short, IBS is of little of no aid to one's finances and, in return for this invaluable assistance, you will have to pay monthly dues to them. However, your IBS affiliation is your own affair.

Radio Radcliffe was begun in the summer of 1945 by a group of aspiring young females who had been announcing shows at the

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Harvard Network. The college~~r~~ refused to grant them any aid and so they hit various relatives for minute sums; induced the Network to build them a transmitter for thirty dollars (far below actual cost) and had the fellows aid them in setting up the station. Radcliffe saw fit to give them a ten by twelve room on the second floor of the Athletic Association's Field House. This was split in half to form a control room and studio. The building is far from sound proof; our soundproofing is useless.

Strictly speaking, IBS has been of no technical aid to us since we have the Network to fall back on for such assistance. In your case they may come thru with something more helpful. We employ no engineer; our tech women do all the work they can, then yell for Harvard.

We serve six campus dormitories, our lines running parallel to the telephone lines; the transmitter is located in~~t~~ the basement of one of the dorms. The control room holds mixer, speaker, mixer input supply (i.e. power supply) , two turntables (which are highly defective). Studio has two microphones and clock. Our records are filed in another room. Capitol, Exclusive, Keynote and Hit should be willing to supply you with records free of charge.

I know this letter hasn't been too helpful, but if you need any more info, write me and, in spite of all, college radio is goodly fun -- if you have a strong heart.

Mary P. O'Donnell

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